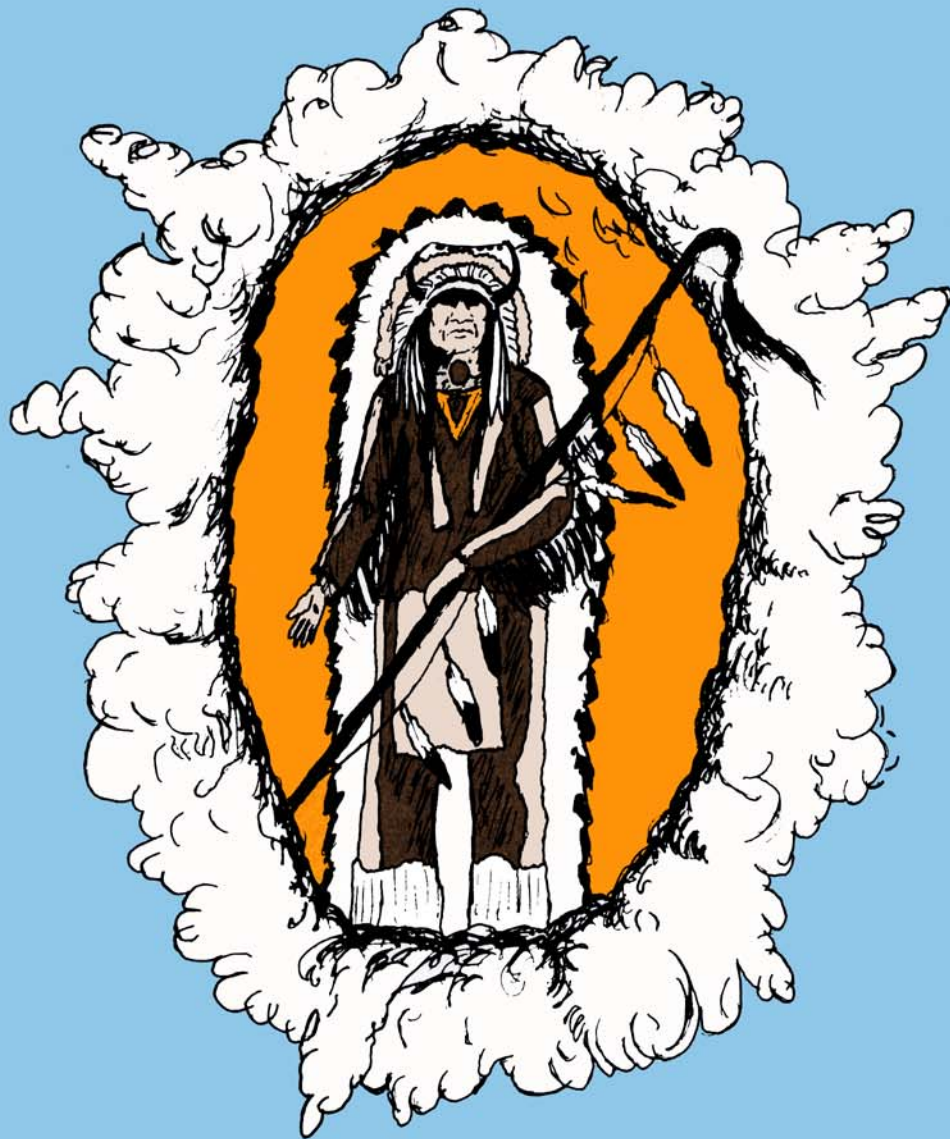


Duckhead Necklace and Indian Love Story

The Indian Reading Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

- Lloyd Smith-Warm Springs
Chairman
- Clement Azure — Devils Lake Sioux
- Walter Moffett — Nez Perce
- Emmett Oliver — Quinault
- Bob Parsley — Chippewa
- Helen Redbird — Cherokee
- Max Snow
- Jeanne Thomas — Warm Springs
- Bill Yellowtail — Crow



THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Duckhead Necklace

Indian Love Story

Level V Book 15

By members of the Assinboine Elders Board of the
Fort Belknap Reservation

Leo Wing, *Chairman*
Preston Stiffarm, *Coordinator*
George Shields, Sr.
Jim Walking Chief
Juanita Tucker
Estelle Black Bird
Jenny C. Gray

Illustrated by George Shields, Jr.

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

This work has not as yet been published and is afforded all protections under the U.S. Copyright Law (P.L. 94-553) effective January 1, 1978.

Copyright in the published edition will be held by and in the name of the Assiniboiné and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation.

No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transcribed, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the author agency identified below.

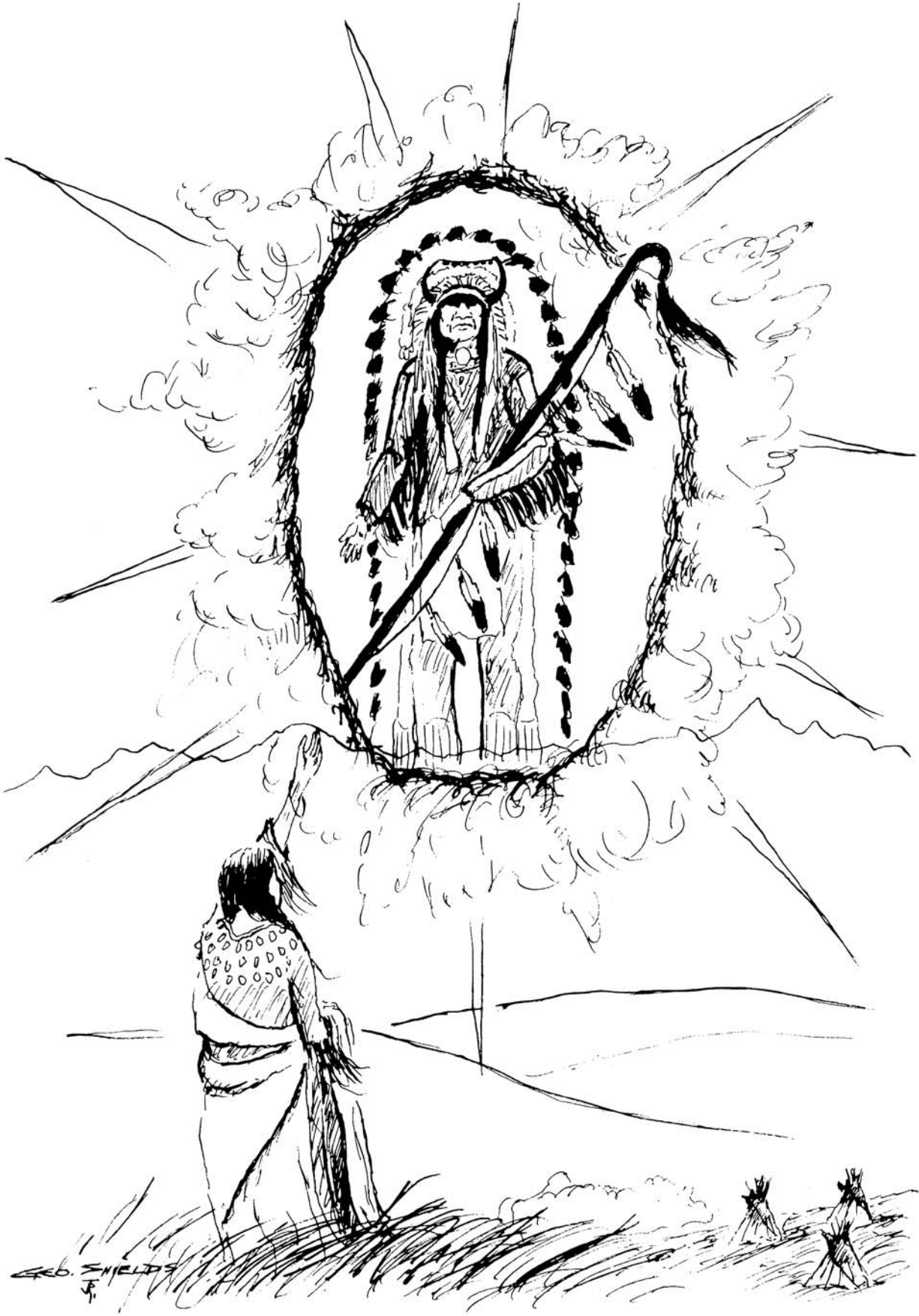
The project presented or reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant from the National Institute of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the National Institute of Education, and no official endorsement by the National Institute of Education should be inferred.

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
710 S.W. Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Duckhead Necklace

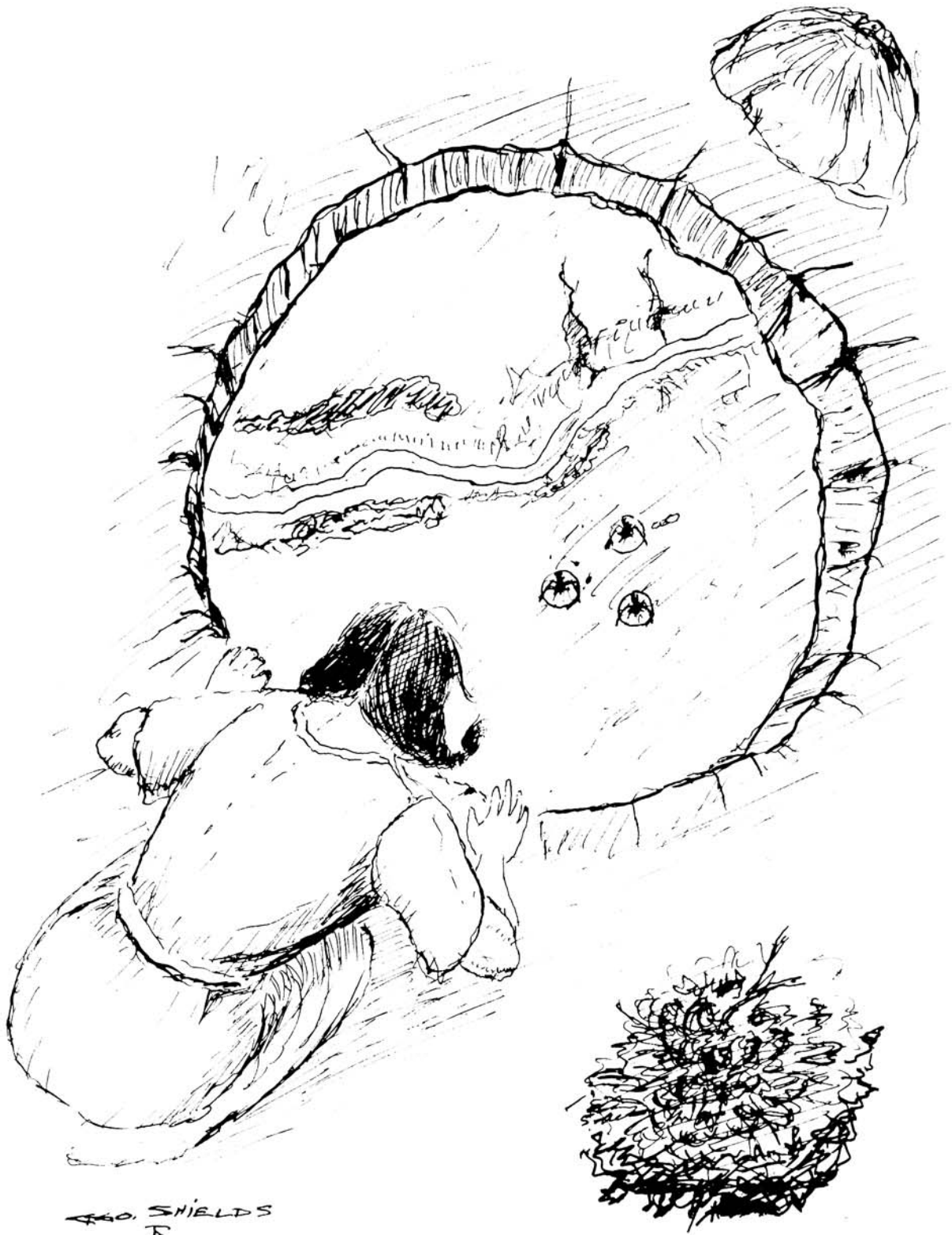
narrated by Isabel Shields

One evening two Indian girls sat outside looking at the stars. One star was very bright. One of the girls said, "I wish that bright star would come down and get me. I would marry him." The next evening a young Indian man came from an opening in the sky. He was a handsome man and he was dressed very nicely. He took the young Indian girl back with him into the sky and they were married.



It was a very beautiful place where he took her to live. She was very happy and enjoyed everything. There were many things for her to do. She could do almost anything. There was one exception. She was told not to dig large green turnips. After awhile she started to get lonesome. She would take long walks looking for the hole in the sky. One day she realized she was to have a baby. This made her want to return home even more.

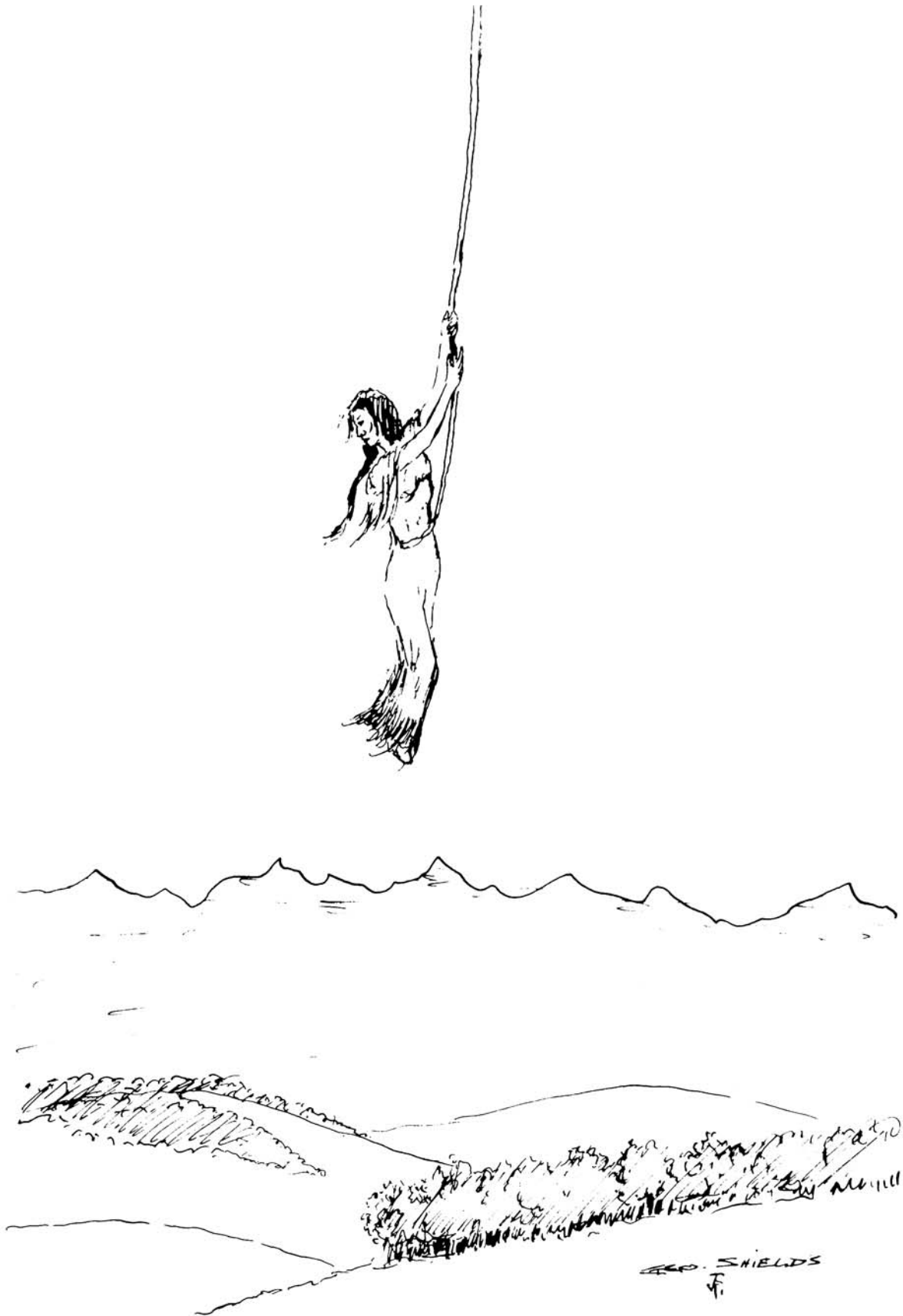
On one of her walks she saw some big green turnips. Even though she was told not to, she dug one up. It left a large hole. She looked down and saw the place where she used to live. She began to make plans to go back. Every time her husband would bring game home she would tan only part of the hide. She would cut the rest of the hide into strips and dry them to make a rawhide rope. She was trying to hurry as it was almost time to have her baby and she wanted to be home when the baby was born.

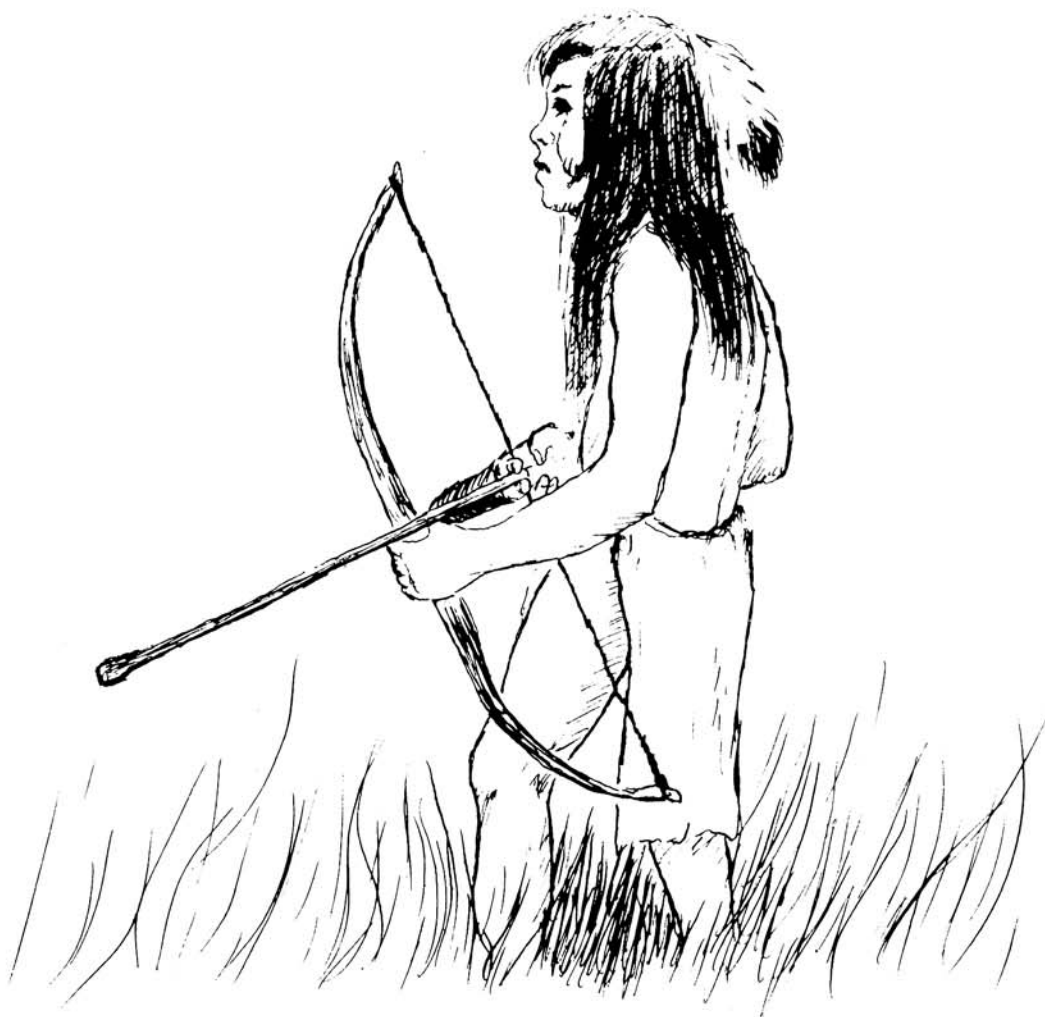


440. SHIELDS
H

One day, she thought she had enough rawhide for her rope. She connected the rawhide strips together and made a long rope. She took the rope and went to the hole she had found. She tied one end of the rope to a rock and tied the other end around her waist and let herself down the hole very slowly. The rope wasn't long enough. She was left hanging in mid-air.

In the meantime her husband came home and found her gone. He looked all over for her. He thought of looking at the hole in the sky. There he found her hanging at the end of the rawhide rope. He picked up a rock and said, "Split her in two but don't hurt the baby." He threw the rock down and hit the woman. She fell to the ground and died. The baby boy was also hurt. He stayed by his mother until he could walk.





There was an old woman living in a tepee not very far from where the little boy was. She knew there was a child living near her. One day she wanted to find out if the child was a boy or girl. She placed a doll and a bow and some arrows near where the child was staying. The next time she went to look, the bow and arrows were gone so she knew the child was a boy.



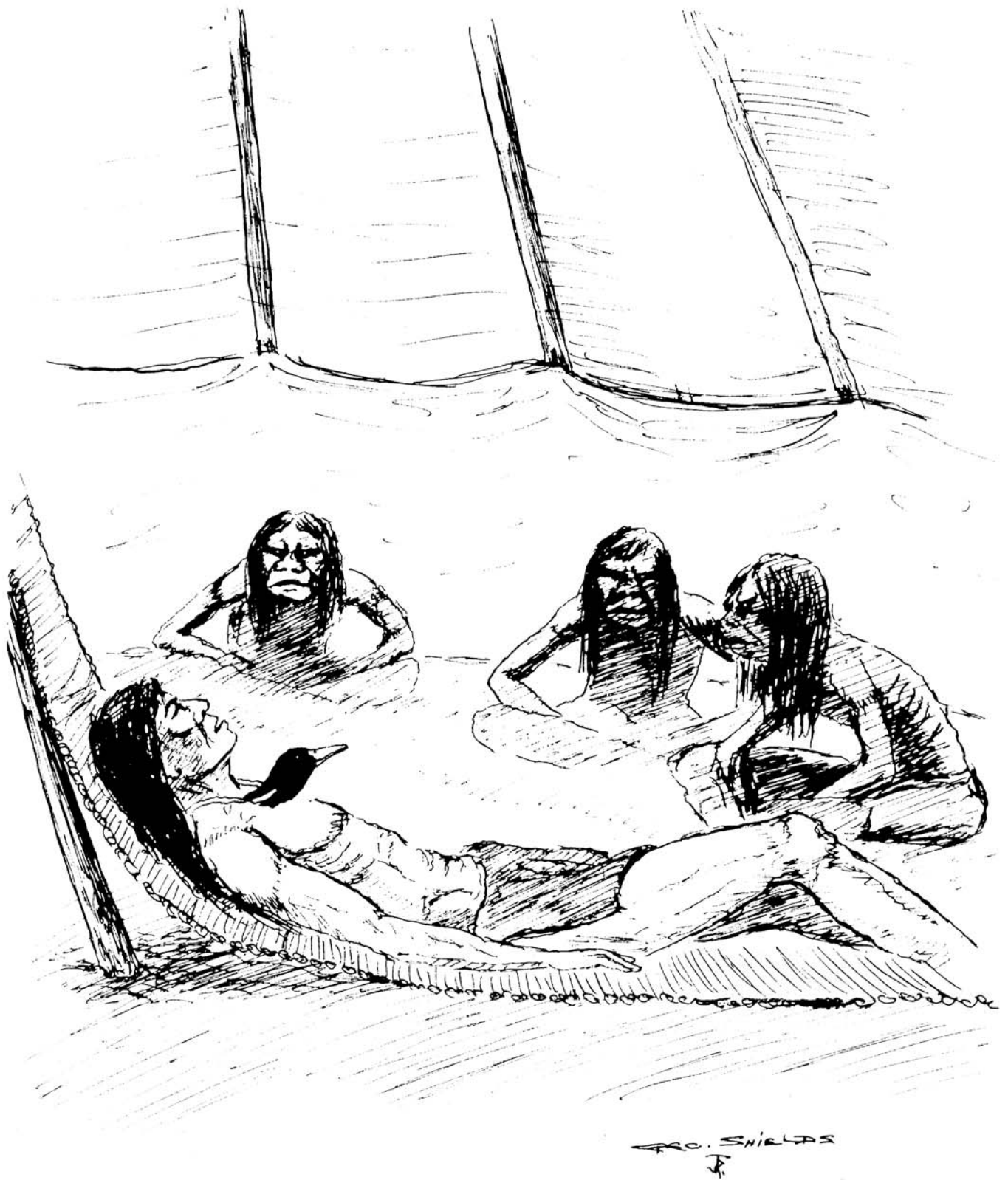
Geo. Shields
R

One day the boy walked to the end of a forest. He saw a lone tepee. As soon as he was close to it a voice called to him, "Come in my grandchild. I have been expecting you." The little boy went in and sat down. He saw an old woman sitting opposite him. She told him to stay with her. He had the bow and arrows that she had left at the place where the little boy was living. She taught him how to use the bow and arrows. She tied a duck head on a buckskin string and put it around the little boy's neck. She told him it was to protect him at all times. His name would be Duckhead Necklace.

Sometimes he would go hunting for small animals and birds. Often he was lucky and he would kill a sage hen, duck, bush rabbit, prairie chicken, or other small animals which made his grandmother very proud. One day when he was taking a walk he came to a big lake. He saw a large whale swimming around. He shot and killed it with his bow and arrow. He went back to his grandmother's tepee and told her what he did. His grandmother left saying she was going after firewood. She did not return for several days. This happened many times. Each time she came back her hair would be hanging all over and her arms and her legs would be scratched up and bleeding. Long ago that is how Indians mourned for someone they had lost. Duckhead Necklace's grandmother was in mourning. In those days animals could change to people and people could change into animals. Duckhead Necklace had killed a whale. The whale that he had killed was his grandmother's husband. Duckhead Necklace was very sorry but he did not know the whale was his grandmother's husband.



One day when Duckhead Necklace was walking he came to a tepee. From inside a voice told him to come in and sit down at the head of a circle of young men. Each man took turns telling him stories, hoping to put him to sleep. Duckhead Necklace went to sleep right away, but while he slept the duck head hanging around his neck was saying "Yes" for Duckhead Necklace. In the Indian way, as long as someone says yes, the stories go on and on. These young men planned to kill Duckhead Necklace after they had put him to sleep. These young men were actually all snakes. Duckhead Necklace woke up and found out about their plan. He grabbed one of them with his hands and stroked him from his neck down to his tail and said to him, "You are to crawl on the ground always." In turn, the snakes told him never to drink from a buffalo wallow. (That is water standing in small pools.) Duckhead Necklace left. Whenever he came to a buffalo wallow, even though he was thirsty, he always remembered to go on.



One day he came to a buffalo wallow. He thought, "It's been a long time since I was told not to drink from buffalo wallows. I don't think anything will happen now." He took a drink and a snake went in and settled in his head. He was in there a long time. Duckhead Necklace's body turned into a skeleton. Still the snake stayed for awhile longer. The snake finally came out. As soon as he came out, Duckhead Necklace came back alive. He grabbed the snake and rubbed his nose on a stone and made it flat and told him he would have a flat nose forever.

Duckhead Necklace continued traveling until one day when he was walking along he saw a village. He sat on a hill watching the camp. He noticed the bears and people were living together. He went down to the first tepee and went in. The people told him to sit down. They gave him something to eat. After eating, the men smoked. The people told him that at first everyone got along just fine, but now the bears took most of the meat and they let the rest of the meal spoil. "The people are starving and we can't do anything about it." the men told Duckhead Necklace.





GEO. SHIELDS
A.

Duckhead Necklace went to the bear chief's tepee and told him he was doing wrong by starving the people. Duckhead Necklace ordered the bears to leave and live in the mountain forest. He also took their talking away. The bears moved away. With the bears gone the people settled down to a peaceful life. Duckhead Necklace stayed in this village for awhile but then decided to travel on.



Duckhead Necklace walked along until he came to another village. There the people were living with beautiful white birds. For awhile when the men went hunting everyone shared equally. As the white birds began to get bolder, they began taking more of the meat or anything the men brought back from hunting. The people told Duckhead Necklace, "The birds have taken over. The birds eat what they want and let the rest of the meat spoil. The people are starving."

Duckhead Necklace went to the bird chief's tepee and asked the birds to move away. The bird chief refused saying he was satisfied with the way they were living. Duckhead Necklace asked them several times but each time the birds refused.

The next time the men went hunting, Duckhead Necklace went along. He changed himself into a buffalo calf. He told the men to shoot him. They did. The white birds came to eat the meat the men had killed. The bird chief chose the buffalo calf. He flew down and landed on the calf. As soon as he landed Duckhead Necklace grabbed him. With his hands he stroked the bird chief from his head to the end of his tail. The bird chief turned black all over. These birds became known as ravens. Duckhead Necklace took their talking away also. The birds no longer could rule the people. The people were very happy and said many good things about Duckhead Necklace. Duckhead Necklace knew his grandmother would be proud to know he was doing good things for other people.



Indian Love Story

narrated by George Shields, Sr.

This is a true story. It happened hundreds of years ago, back in the days of the buffalo when the Indians roamed this country as freely as they pleased.

In those days Indian people of different tribes did not understand each other's language. They fought each other some of the time. The fighting brought honor to the victor. An Indian that earned many coups from his enemy was considered a chief. What the whiteman calls a horse thief, long ago was considered honorable in the Indian society. The Indians made horse raids and advised the younger people that had horses not to be sleepy heads. "If you sleep late and don't wake up at night, you are going to go around by foot. You won't have any horses if you sleep too long. You will be easy prey for enemies."

There was a young Indian man who was the only child of a married couple. He met a young Indian girl who was one of two children. The young man fell in love with this young girl and they talked of love, but they didn't touch each other. They would stand many feet apart, just close enough to hear what was being said to each other.

Time went on and there was to be a war party. The young man wanted to see his sweetheart before he left. After the sun went down he went to his girlfriend's camp. He went near her tepee and the girl came out. It was early dusk and she saw the young man standing there so she went close enough to hear what he had to say. The young man said, "I came to tell you that tomorrow night a war party is leaving. I want to go. I want to make something of myself. When I come back we will talk to our parents. I will talk to my parents and you talk to your mother and father and perhaps we can marry." While the man was talking the girl never said anything. She just bowed her head.

After he stopped talking the girl said, "Is that all you wanted to tell me?" The young man said, "Yes."

"Listen," she said, "you are suggesting that you want honor so people will recognize you, maybe as a chief. Why do you want that? Your father is a great chief, a respected man in his prime. Your people respect you as much as they respect your father. You don't have to go. Some people who go on war parties never come back. What if that happens to you? What's going to happen to me? My heart is for you. My beliefs are for you. My love is for you. If I lose you I'm nothing. I don't think I will go on living. I love you that much. I don't want you to go. You don't need anything else than what you have now. You are respected already. You ride good horses. You wear good clothes. You have plenty to eat. You live in a good tepee with your father and your mother. What more do you want?"

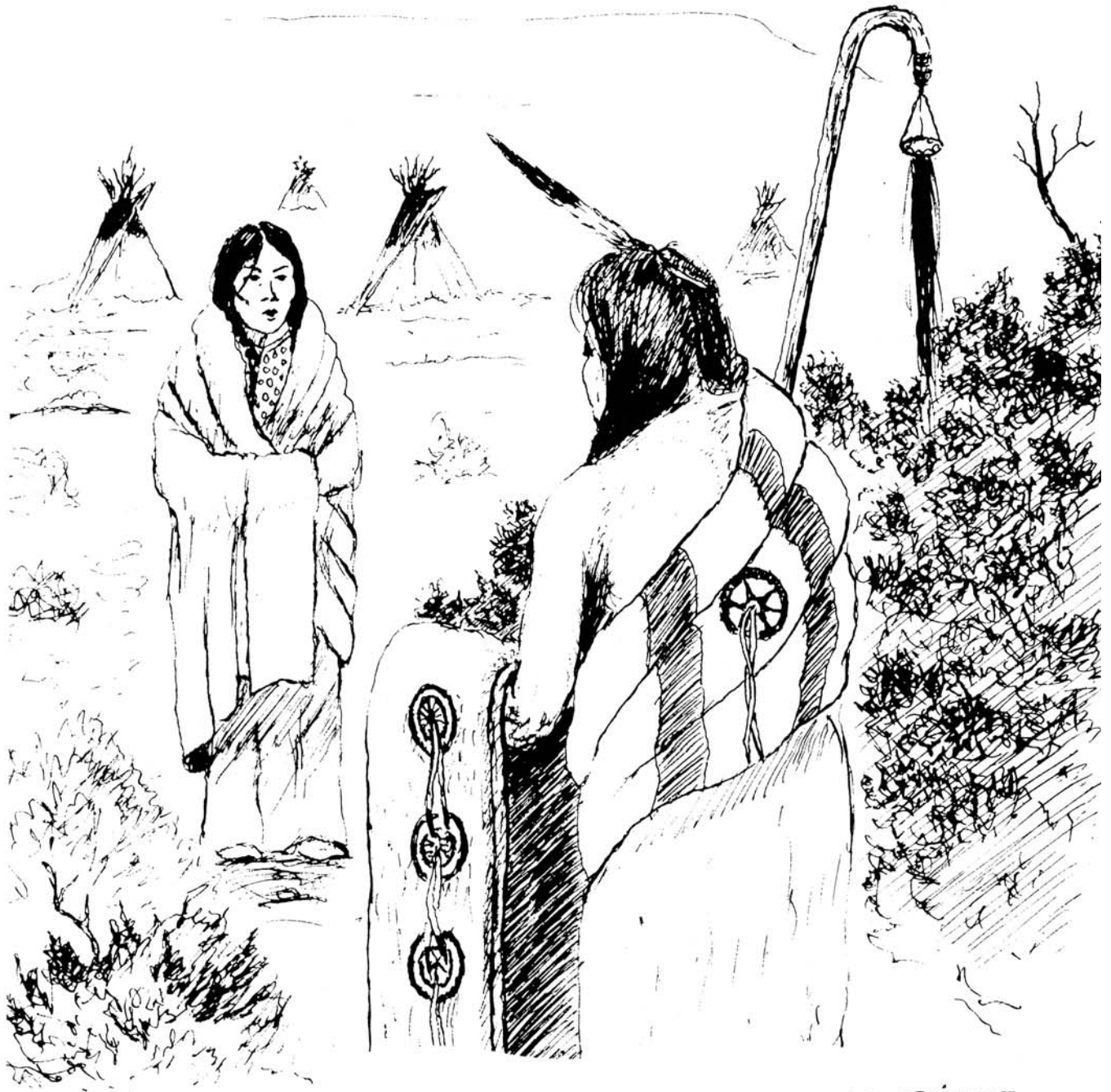


The man said, "I know all that but that isn't enough for me. I want a name for myself before I ask for a wife. I just have to go."

They argued back and forth. Finally, the girl gave up. She never said anything. She just stood there and hung her head. It was night so the young man could not see if the girl was crying.

He went back to his tepee and got a good robe fixed with porcupine quill work. It was fancy, one of the best robes. He took the robe back to the girl. "I'm going to go," he said. "While I'm gone I want you to keep this. When I come back I want to see this blanket and you. You and I will get married if our parents consent."

He left. He didn't even kiss her because they didn't do that in those days. The girl just stood there while he disappeared into the darkness.





The next night the war party went looking for their enemy. They found them and fought. The young man killed an enemy and took his scalp and other things for coups. They won the fight and started back. The return trip took many days.



One day they came to an old camp ground, the same ground which they left some long days before. The young man began looking around the campsite. He walked to the river and came back saying, "I found something. While we were gone someone must have died. The person was buried in the tepee in the woods over there."

The young man felt uneasy about saying somebody passed away. "I'll go over there and look," he said. When he came to the side of the tepee his heart fell but he didn't cry. The tepee was staked down solid all around. The doorway was entwined with sticks so that wolves, or coyotes could not get into that tepee and eat the dead person. He undid all the twigs and sticks and peeked inside. Just as soon as he stuck his head inside the doorway he recognized his blanket. There his sweetheart lay dead, covered with the blanket. When he saw this he wanted to make sure. He went over to the body and uncovered the face. Sure enough, it was his sweetheart. He went back to his war party.



He said, "That dead person is the girl that told me not to go on the war party. It is the girl I promised to marry when I came back. She told me that if I didn't listen to her and stay, she would die of loneliness. She told the truth. She died because of me. I'm the one that caused it so I'm going to stay here with her. She's a woman and she's out here all by herself. I'm a man and I should be with her."

Another wiser man said, "No, don't do that. She's been gone for a long time. Come back to our people with us. These are things that happen. If you stay here you can't bring her back. It's just going to be harder on you."

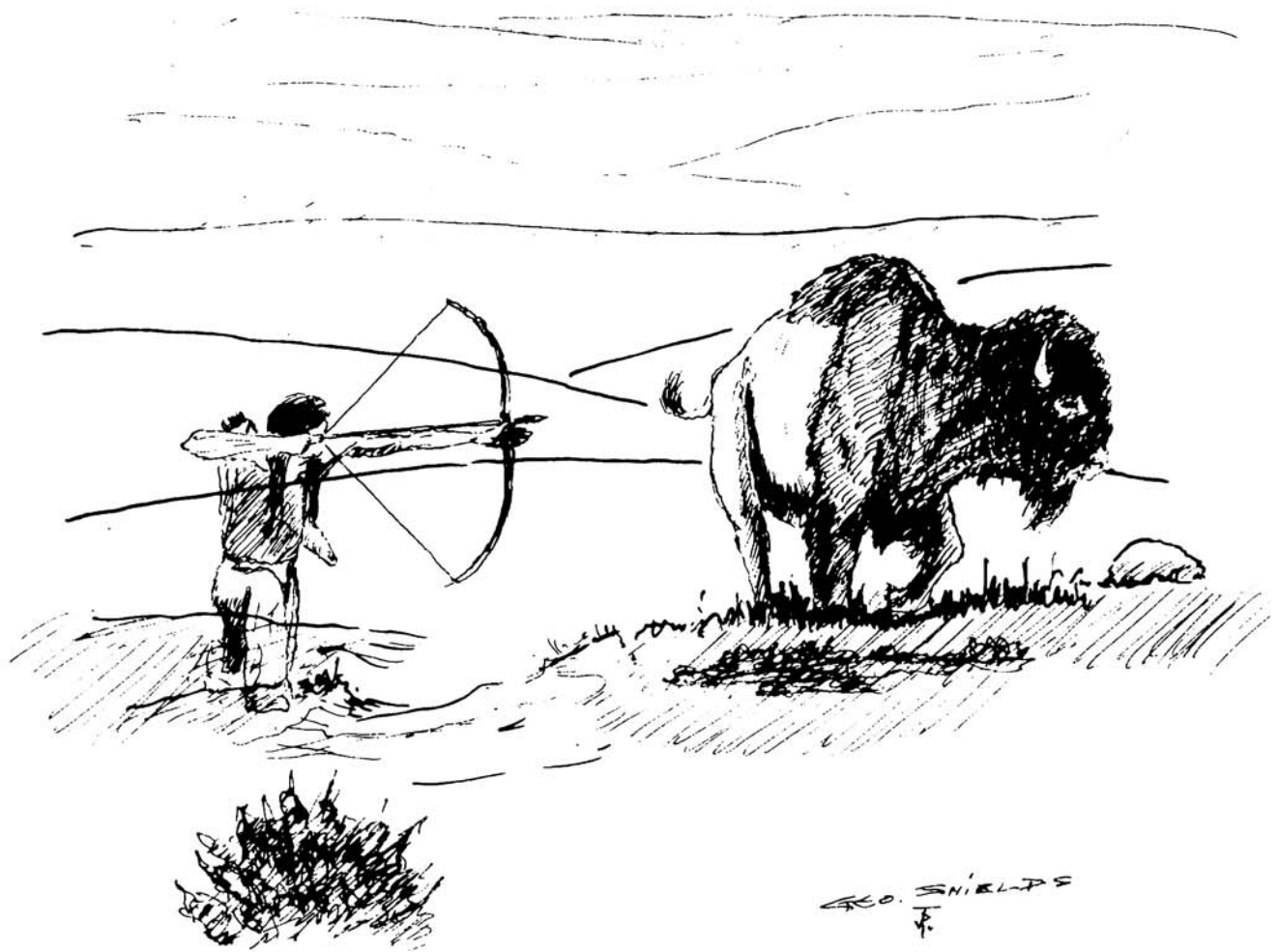
But the young man just wouldn't accept it.

Finally, the wise man said, "All right then. You stay but don't do any harm to yourself because of her. She's in the happy hunting grounds with the rest of her relatives that have gone before her."

"No, I won't do anything. I just want to stay with her for four days," the man said. "Take the horses and the scalp that I have and give them to my father. Tell him what I am doing and that I'm going to come back." The rest of the men left him and he went back to the camp, the burial grounds. He went inside the tepee and crawled in along side his sweetheart, right along side of her dead body. The man's body touched her dead body and he lay there. The first night he didn't sleep a wink. He knew he was laying beside a dead body. The second night he was able to sleep a little and the third night he slept well. The fourth night he slept very soundly. That morning it was just as if he were dreaming. He heard movement inside the tepee and a fire was burning. The wood of the burning fire was crackling. He just lay there because he thought he was dreaming. Suddenly, he heard a woman's voice. "Get up. You're going to eat," she said. But still he just lay there. He still thought he was dreaming. Again the woman spoke and the fourth time he opened his eyes. There was a fire inside the tepee, right in the middle, the way they used to make fires. There also was food cooking. His sweetheart was sitting there by the fire.

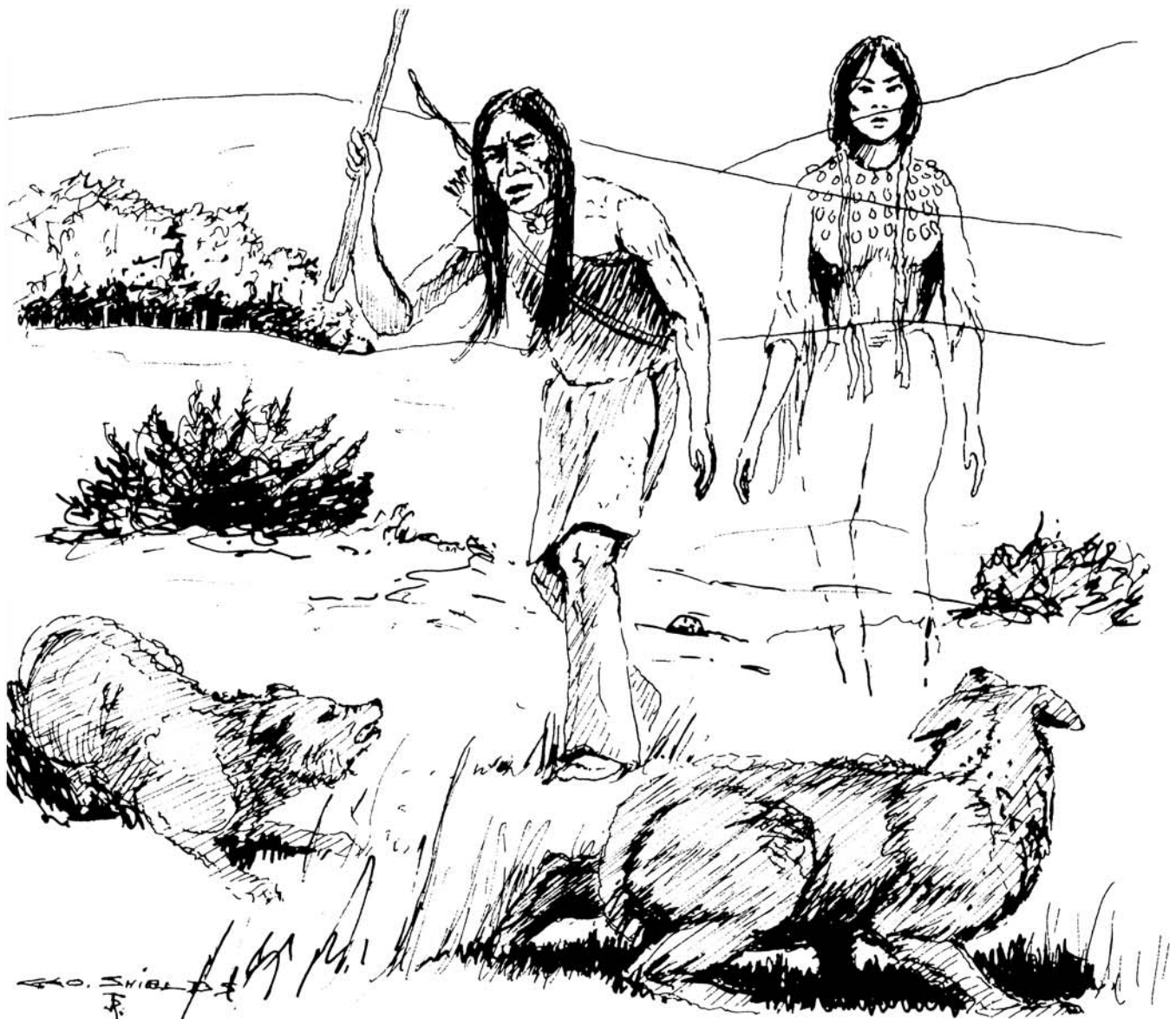


She said, "My folks sent me some food and we are going to eat. But before we eat I want to tell you this. I told you this was going to happen. Now you sleep by me. You don't fear me. You don't hate me. I pitied you again. After we eat we're going to go home to your people, my people." She looked like she did when she was alive. She had good clothes and nice combed hair. After they ate she said, "When we go out, fix this doorway the way you found it. Fix it so that no animal can get in there."



They went to find their families. They traveled day after day. Finally the girl asked, "Are you hungry?" The young man said, "Yes, I'm hungry now." "Well, do you see that herd of buffalo over there? Go over there and kill that young fat buffalo. They won't see you because I will give you my power," she said. He killed the buffalo. The girl came over and they butchered the young buffalo. They cut out the best parts of it and cooked it.

They continued on towards home day after day. This was during the summer. The sky was clear. The grass was green. The trees by the river were covered with green leaves. Every now and then they saw a herd of buffalo. The buffalo would not pay any attention to them. They could not see them because the young woman gave the man that power.



They continued to travel until one day they came upon a high ridge. Far below by a river there was a large camp and the girl said, "Here are our people. Our parents live in this camp. We are going to go down there but I want you to go to your parent's place. That is where you belong anyway." They started down the ridge to the camp. As soon as they came close to the encampment all the dogs barked and barked. They smelled something and ran in the opposite direction. The dogs knew a soul was coming alongside the young man. That was why they were barking. The people felt strange. A man was coming and the dogs were barking at him. The dogs had not done that before.

The young man went to his parent's camp. His mother was very glad to see him. She cried and cried hanging onto her son. She said, "My son, I'm glad you came back. We heard what you did and we were scared. Our enemies are still near that place. I'm glad you came back. Sit down and drink this water. I will feed you." He sat down on his bed. His parents had fixed it just like he had been sleeping on it.

He sat down and his sweetheart sat down beside him. The people could not see her because a soul cannot be seen by a living person. The man's mother began to feed him. "I'm going to feed you. Your father just killed a young buffalo and we have good meat." she said. She fed him and put some water beside the food. Before he ate the food he took the water and the food and put it beside him, right in front of the girl. He continued talking to his parents and after awhile he took the food and ate it. Everytime they fed him he did that. He wouldn't touch the food and water until he took it and put it on his left side. Finally, his mother noticed the strange way he was acting.

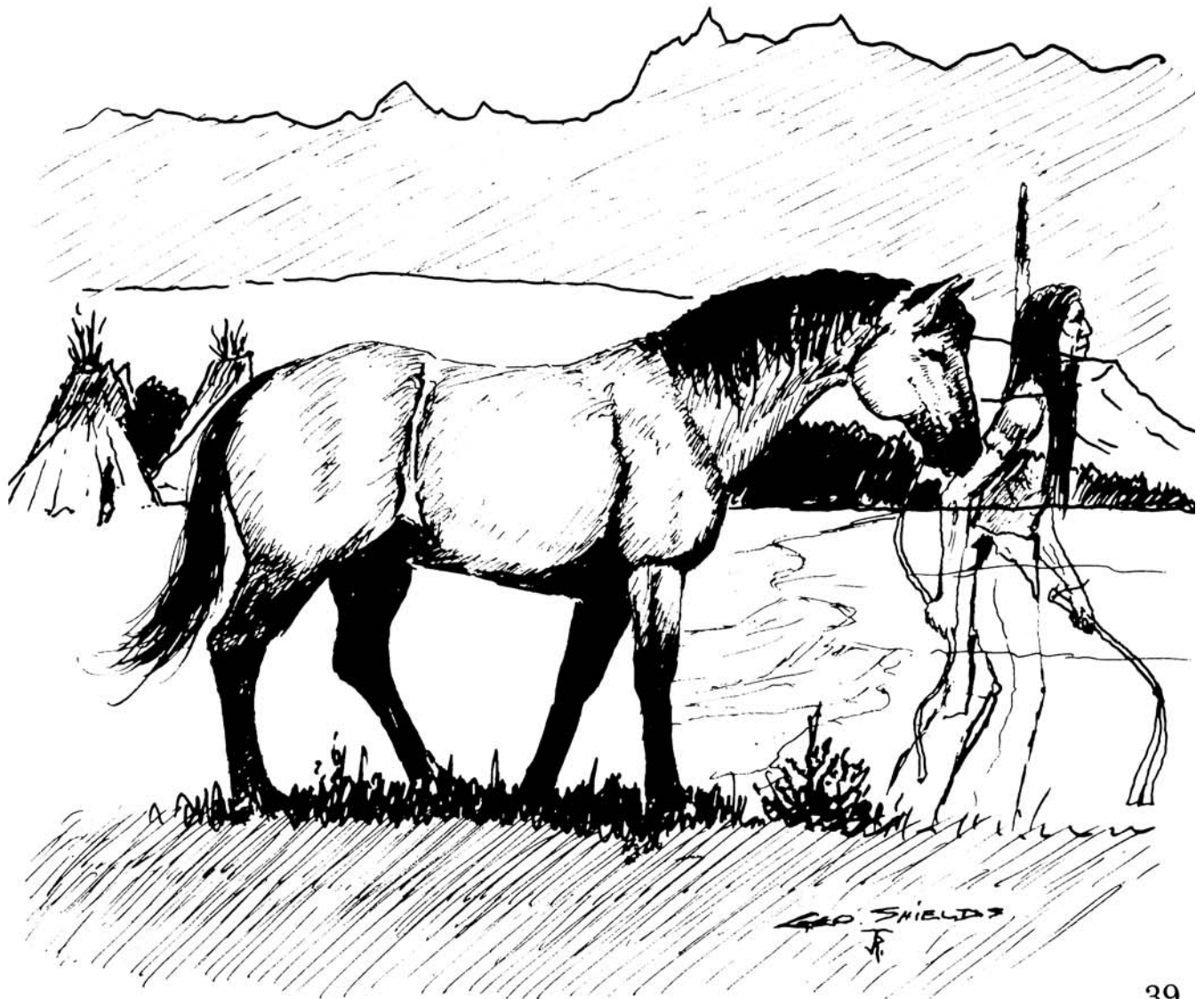
One day, after the young man went outside his father came in. The mother said to him, "My son has been acting very strangely. He never acted like this before. I have noticed his strange ways since he came back." The father said, "I'm going to visit somebody and ask why our son is acting so strangely. Something must be bothering him. I don't know what it is." The father left to visit another camp.



GEO. SHIELDS
F.

After awhile the young man came back to his mother's tepee. The girl's soul went wherever he went. His mother said, "My son, you've been acting very strangely. Tell the truth. Why are you acting like this?" The young man said, "Mother, the girl that passed away at the old camp is with me. She's right here." When he said that the girl smiled. After that his mother set two places, one for the girl's soul and one for her son. When his mother did that the girl was very happy.

The young man would eat everything, but the girl's food was always left uneaten. Time went on until a war party was getting ready to leave. The girl said to the young man, "You have to make a name for yourself so we must go along. You said you liked horses. It is time to get some." They went in broad daylight and took horses from the enemy. It was like the horses strayed off by themselves. No one could see the man because the girl gave him the power to be invisible. He made many horse raids, each time getting many horses. He became a big chief.

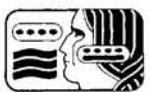


The soul of the girl stayed with the young man for four years. One day the girl said to the young man, "I have been living with you for four years. I promised that. Now four years are up and everything that you have been wishing for on this earth you have with my help. I cannot stay longer than what I have promised so this is the end. I have a sister. She is a very beautiful woman. I want you to marry my sister and always be good to her. She will take my place. I want you to love my sister as much as you have loved me. You and she are going to have a very good life from this day on. Take my sister as your wife. Always respect her and love her." The young man told his mother what this girl said. The man's mother went to the girl's parents and told them what her son said. They were willing and happy. "These are our departed daughter's words and we cannot refuse them. We will do as she wishes." They had a big gathering among the man's relatives and friends, as well as the bride-to-be's relatives and friends. In those days they exchanged gifts on both sides. The couple was married by an old warrior who performed the marriage ceremony and they lived happily ever after.



Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest